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BY: *Donna Marks*

DATE: *April 21, 2006*

PATENT
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application of: :
Takuya Matsumoto, *et al.* :
Conf. No.: 3248 : Group Art Unit: 1756
Appln. No.: 10/801,459 : Examiner: Shean Chiu Wu
Filing Date: March 16, 2004 : Attorney Docket No.: 8305-240US (NP139-1)
Title: Liquid Crystalline Oxetane Compound, Polymerizable Liquid Crystalline Composition, Method for Producing Liquid Crystal Film, Optical Film, and Liquid Crystal Display

COMMENTS ON EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

This is in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance at page 2 of the Notice of Allowability attached to the Notice of Allowance dated March 1, 2006, in the above-referenced application. This response is being timely filed on or before the payment of the issue fee in the above-referenced application.

These comments are being filed to correct and clarify the record.

In the Notice of Allowability, the Examiner states that "the claimed method of producing a liquid crystal film comprises the steps of forming a layer of a polymerizable liquid crystalline composition on an alignable film so as to be aligned in a liquid crystal orientation and then polymeriz[ing] with light and/or heat to fix the aligned structure." (See, Notice of Allowability, page 2).

Application No. 10/801,459
Reply to Notice of Allowance dated March 1, 2006

Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed method does not require polymerization with light and/or heat. Allowed independent claim 11 reads in pertinent part as follows:

Claim 11. A method of producing a liquid crystal film, the method comprising:

(a) forming a layer of a polymerizable liquid crystalline composition on an alignable film in an aligned liquid crystal orientation; and

(b) polymerizing the layer such that the aligned orientation is fixed;

wherein the polymerizable liquid crystalline composition comprises an oxetane compound represented by the formula

There is no requirement that polymerization of the layer be specifically carried out with light and/or heat as implied by the Examiner in the Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

Applicants agree with the Examiner that the references fail to teach or suggest the claimed method. Applicants have filed the instant response in order to clarify that the allowed claims do not require polymerization via light and/or heat.

Respectfully submitted,

Takuya Matsumoto, et al.

April 21, 2006 By: *Aaron R. Ettelman*
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